

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 338

To improve communications interoperability for emergency response.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2007

Mr. DINGELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To improve communications interoperability for emergency
response.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Commu-
5 nications Interoperability Grant Program Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RE-**
7 **SPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title V of the Homeland Se-
9 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by
10 adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 522. IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY**
2 **RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
4 through the Director of the Office of Grants and Training
5 and in coordination with the Director for Emergency Com-
6 munications, shall establish the Improve Communications
7 for Emergency Response Grant Program to make grants
8 to States and regions to carry out initiatives to improve
9 interoperable emergency communications, including initia-
10 tives to achieve solutions to statewide, regional, national,
11 and, where appropriate, international interoperability.

12 “(b) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—A State or region re-
13 ceiving a grant under this section may use the grant for
14 short-term or long-term goals for improving interoperable
15 emergency communications, including interoperability
16 within that State or region, and to assist with—

17 “(1) statewide or regional communications
18 planning;

19 “(2) design and engineering for interoperable
20 emergency communications systems;

21 “(3) procurement and installation of interoper-
22 able emergency communications equipment;

23 “(4) interoperable emergency communications
24 exercises;

25 “(5) modeling and simulation exercises for
26 operational command and control functions;

1 “(6) technical assistance and training for inter-
2 operable emergency communications; and

3 “(7) other activities determined by the Sec-
4 retary to be integral to interoperable emergency
5 communications.

6 “(c) REGION DEFINED.—For the purposes of this
7 section, the term ‘region’ means any combination of con-
8 tiguous local government units, including such a combina-
9 tion established by law or mutual aid agreement between
10 two or more local governments or governmental agen-
11 cies.”.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Home-
14 land Security for grants under section 522 of the Home-
15 land Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a)—

16 (1) such sums as may be necessary for the first
17 fiscal year that begins after the later of—

18 (A) the date on which the Secretary of
19 Homeland Security completes and submits to
20 Congress the National Emergency Communica-
21 tions Plan required under section 1802 of the
22 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 572);

23 (B) the date on which the Secretary of
24 Homeland Security completes and submits to
25 Congress the first baseline interoperability as-

1 sessment required under section 1803 of such
2 Act (6 U.S.C. 573); or

3 (C) the date on which the Secretary of
4 Homeland Security, after consultation with the
5 Director of Emergency Communications, deter-
6 mines and notifies Congress that substantial
7 progress has been made towards the develop-
8 ment and promulgation of voluntary consensus-
9 based interoperable communications standards
10 pursuant to section 1801(c)(11) of such Act (6
11 U.S.C. 571(c)(11)); and

12 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each
13 subsequent fiscal year.

14 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
15 in section 1(b) of that Act is amended by inserting after
16 the item relating to section 521 the following:

 “Sec. 522. Improve Communications for Emergency Response Grant Pro-
 gram.”.

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